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Legislators support library services in Missouri

The 91st General Assembly concluded its first regular session on May 18, 2001. Legislators passed House Bill 12, which includes state aid for public libraries, the Remote Electronic Access for Libraries (REAL) Program, and the Out of State Athletes and Entertainers Income Tax. The bill goes to Governor Holden, who has until July 14, 2001, to sign the bill into law. Among the provisions of House Bill 12:

- ◆ Public libraries will receive \$3,770,657 in state aid. This represents an increase of \$488,786 over the last fiscal year. The Conference Committee specified the additional funds be used to increase per capita state aid from 50 cents to 55 cents, with the remainder to go to the equalization program (see following article).
- ◆ The REAL Program will receive \$3,325,000. This includes \$1,325,000 for online reference resources for public libraries, schools, academic institutions, and state government.
- ◆ The athletes and entertainers tax was set at \$463,991 for library materials grants.

Also approved by the General Assembly were personnel and operating costs for the State Library, Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and appropriations for the Library Services and Technology Act, Literacy Investment For Tomorrow (LIFT) program, MOBIUS (common library platform for academic libraries), and MOREnet.

- ◆ State Library—\$1,803,679
- ◆ Wolfner Library—\$949,714
- ◆ LSTA projects—\$1,500,000
- ◆ LIFT—\$69,450, which represents a percentage of the agency's budget
- ◆ MOBIUS—\$649,539 for the first year of ongoing operations
- ◆ MOREnet—an \$830,625 one-time budget increase

Equalization payments to 55 Missouri libraries

Secretary of State Matt Blunt has announced that public libraries in 54 Missouri counties plus the City of St. Louis will receive funds under the State Aid Equalization Program. A total of \$938,530 has been allocated for the fiscal year 2001 program.

Missouri statutes provide for equalization payments to be made to county, city/county, urban public, or consolidated libraries. These "equalization funds" provide additional support for libraries in counties having significant levels of poverty, where provision of library resources is especially difficult, and where financial need is greatest. The funds supplement the per capita payments made to libraries certified to receive state aid.

To determine library districts with the most need, counties were ranked top to bottom on assessed valuation and percentage of people in poverty. Four tiers were then established to determine the distribution of funds:

- Tier 1 — counties in the bottom 25% on both assessed valuation and the largest percentage of people in poverty
- Tier 2 — counties in the bottom 25% on one factor, and in the bottom 50% on the other factor
- Tier 3 — counties in the bottom 25% on one factor, but not in the bottom 50% on the other factor
- Tier 4 — counties in the bottom 50% on one or both factors

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Equalization payments

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Libraries use the equalization funds for basic operating expenses or to meet specific local needs in the areas of collection development, creation of special programs for children or seniors, and building improvement. Overall, the equalization program helps to improve library services for Missourians and to achieve the goals in the state's long-range plan, *Charting Missouri's Library Future into the New Century*.

Secretary Blunt names new library council members

Ten Missourians have joined the Secretary's Council on Library Development, a statewide advisory group. The council meets quarterly in various locations across the state to discuss issues pertinent to the Missouri library community and to develop public policy for Missouri libraries. Its members represent libraries, government bodies, state agencies, educational institutions, and the general public.

Annie Busch, director of Springfield-Greene County Library, is the new council chair. She replaces Donell Gaertner, who served as chair since the council's establishment in 1996. Other new members include Senator Roseann Bentley, Springfield; Meredith Black, Trenton; Ryan Burson, Jefferson City; Representative Rod Jetton, Marble Hill; Cheryl Polk, Creve Coeur; Senator Steve Stoll, Festus; Lynne Sullivan, Albany; and Ann Sundermeyer, Hannibal.

They join the following current members: Bill Burris, West Plains; Sharon Early, Lee's Summit; Karen Horny, Springfield; Jerry Howard, Dexter; C. Lee Jones, Kansas City; Emory Melton, Cassville; Kathryn Nelson, St. Louis; Lawrence Onsager, Kirksville; Susan Singleton, St. Louis; Representative Deleta Parmley Williams, and Virginia Young, Columbia.

For more information about the council and its work, check the State Library's website, and click on "News from the State

Librarian's Office" at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/council/sosc.asp>.

Wolfner Library's summer reading program

Every summer, public libraries all over Missouri offer summer reading programs for the children and teens in their communities. These programs include story times, programs, activities, and reading goals.

For a number of years, Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has

offered its own version of a summer reading program for its young library users. Wolfner Library does not have story times and programs; instead, children and teenagers participate in the summer program through reading goals, writing contests, and suggested activities, including games and crafts.

This summer, Wolfner Library is once again offering two summer reading programs—one for youth reading between the preschool through elementary level and one for those reading between the middle school through high school and adult level. In April, invitations were mailed to all the children, teens, and schools registered for Wolfner Library services. The child or teen may choose whichever program is best for him or her, regardless of age.

Wolfner Library participates in the Missouri Youth Library Program Committee's summer reading program. Each summer reading club member receives a packet of activity ideas and suggested reading lists related to the theme. During the program, members call the library to report on their reading accomplishments. The library staff keeps reading logs for them. Youth who reach the various goals of the program receive awards. The prizes for 2001 include tactile globes, braille Monopoly games,



globe key chains, \$50 U.S. savings bonds, and books.

Wolfner Library awards excellent prizes to its reading club participants because the Friends of the Wolfner Library and the Library Users of Missouri, an affiliate organization of the Missouri Council of the Blind, underwrite the cost of all prizes.

Missouri library literacy survey under way

The State Library is conducting a statewide survey to gather information about literacy activities in public libraries. The survey has been sent by e-mail to be completed online and returned as an attachment or printed out and returned by mail or fax.

Although most library services have connections to literacy, this survey covers activities with the intentional goal of improving the literacy of participants. For the sur-

vey, literacy means “an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak in English and to compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society, to achieve one’s goals, and develop one’s knowledge and potential.” (National Literacy Act, 1991)

For children, literacy means gaining emergent and pre-literacy skills such as adequate language development, phonemic awareness, and familiarity with picture context and conventions of print so they can move toward mastery of the reading-writing process and succeed in school.

Karen Jones, the State Library’s literacy consultant, says the survey will have an impact on funding decisions at the state level and provide a way to share ideas about unique literacy programs with others. The survey also will update *Literacy Activities of Missouri Public Libraries*, a publication last issued by the State Library in 1997.



Web Watch

Food Finder

<http://www olen.com/food/>

Compare fat, cholesterol, sodium, and calories of your favorite fast foods. Choose a restaurant, type in an item, and click on “Fire up the deep fryer.” Information is based on the book *Fast Food Facts* by the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office.

Internet Brothers: Tips and Tools

<http://internetbrothers.com/tiptool.htm>

Subtitled “Helpware for the Cybercommunity,” this site helps website developers at all levels. It includes website planning advice, HTML basics and advanced topics, webpage tips, Web graphics, layout and design issues, its own top 10 sites, and “surfers choices.”

KinderStart.com

<http://www.kinderstart.com>

A huge indexed directory of resources on the Net for parents and caregivers covering health, education, learning activities, child development, and other issues affecting children seven years and under. It has a 30% monthly growth rate.

A new Missouri union catalog

Show-Me the World is the name selected by Secretary of State Matt Blunt for the new union catalog of materials owned by Missouri libraries. Missourians will not only have access to library collections in the state but also to those of libraries throughout the U.S. and other countries. The 4.1 million Missouri records are part of WorldCat, a bibliographic database of more than 43 million bibliographic records maintained by the Online Computer Library Center.

If Missourians do not find the material they need at their local library, they can check WorldCat to find out if the material is available at another Missouri library or outside the state. Librarians will then request the material through interlibrary loan.



Trade Secrets workshops scheduled for September

The weeks of September 10 and September 17 have been set aside for a series of Trade Secrets workshops, sponsored by the Library Development Division of the State Library.

The workshops will provide library staff with an opportunity for networking and discussion of programs and service ideas for youth services.

Dates and locations will be announced in mid-summer and publicized in *newsline* and on MO-YAC, the youth services electronic discussion list.

President's budget requests level funding for library programs

The President's Budget for FY2002 contains \$192,977,000 for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, reflecting level funding for core grant programs and an increase of \$125,000 for federal staff costs. The request for the Office of Library Services is \$168,078,000 and for the Office of Museum Services, \$24,899,000.

The budget request focuses on two major goals. Each of these goals will be addressed through library programs, museum programs, and collaborations between libraries and museums:

- ◆ increasing technological access to library and museum resources for all Americans, and
- ◆ building community partnerships to address serious and persistent community needs.

Building the educational capacity of libraries and museums and sustaining equitable access to their resources is at the heart of the federal vision for these institutions. IMLS uses federal funds to:

- ◆ *Invest in Education*: promoting the roles of museums and libraries as centers for lifelong learning,
- ◆ *Invest in Access*: using technology and training to give all citizens equitable access to information,
- ◆ *Invest in Families and Children*: supporting museum and library use for all ages,
- ◆ *Invest in Communities*: strengthening the role of museums and libraries as centers of civic engagement, and
- ◆ *Invest in Cultural Heritage*: studying, preserving, and showcasing the unique heritage at the heart of America.

The Institute's library programs help libraries use new technologies to identify, preserve, and share library and information resources across institutional, local, and state boundaries and to reach those for whom library service requires extra effort or special materials. Museum programs strengthen museum operations, improve

care of collections, increase professional development opportunities, and enhance the community service role of museums.

The President's budget would abolish funding for the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). The budget narrative states, "Other agencies can effectively perform the necessary functions for which the Commission has been responsible." Funding for FY 2001 for NCLIS was \$1.4 million.

Congress will debate the President's budget proposals throughout the summer and into the fall. During this time, the House of Representatives and the Senate will release their own budget proposals for FY2002. All three proposals will be considered until they reach agreement on a compromise budget.

Public libraries win delay on filtering mandate

The deadline by which public libraries will be required to install Internet filtering software on their public access computers has been extended until July 2002, according to a recent agreement reached in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia. The agreement between federal attorneys, library advocates, and Internet publishers came during a hearing on two lawsuits that challenge the constitutionality of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

CIPA requires that schools and libraries receiving a broad array of important federal funding, including the "E-rate" program, install and use blocking technology to filter out "obscene" or "harmful to minors" material. The statute was passed as part of last fall's massive budget appropriations bill and became effective on April 20, 2001.

New report documents progress Charting Missouri's Library Future

In the summer of 1997, the State Library published *Charting Missouri's Library Fu-*

ture into the New Century as its long-range plan for library services in the state. This publication was developed in part from recommendations made by individuals participating in 19 public forums on library services held throughout the state. The State Library has used "Charting" as the basis for both fiscal and program planning.

In the fall of 2000, State Librarian Sara Parker directed the State Library staff to prepare a mid-term report on the progress made in reaching the goals outlined in "Charting." Each State Library division reviewed statewide programs and held meetings with colleagues to determine whether major projects were meeting goals. The result of this work is the recently published *Charting Missouri's Library Future: A Progress Report*. The 52-page report contains sections on access to information, improving current library services, coopera-



**Charting Missouri's Library Future
into the New Century**
A Progress Report

showing state and federal support for Missouri libraries.

All libraries and presidents of library governing boards will receive a copy of the new report in June. Additional copies may be requested from the Library Development Division (800-325-0131) while supplies last.

tion between libraries and their partners, leadership, library training, funding, evaluating library services, a demographic sketch of Missouri, and charts

Sky High on Reading

Last year, Springfield author David Harrison initiated a reading program called Sky High on Reading. The nine-month program challenges students in Springfield public and area schools to read enough books during the school year to reach a mile into the sky. The students more than met that goal last year, having read 2.2 million books. This year, students reached their "mile-high" goal by reading more than 1.5 million books.

To honor the students and their success, the Springfield-Greene County Library hosted a celebration program with special guest Colonel Mike Mullane, an astronaut who completed three space missions and logged 356 hours in space aboard the shuttles Discovery and Atlantis. Mullane has written the books *Liftoff: An Astronaut's Dream* and *Do Your Ears Pop in Space?*

The celebration also featured a Huey helicopter, which landed on the library parking lot, as well as hang gliders and parachutists.

About 200 people attended the celebration.

Spring library grants round-up

Thirty-three Missouri public libraries will receive funds in the spring award of **Basic Equipment** grants. Secretary of State Matt Blunt has approved grants totaling \$634,655 from this program, which is supported through the federal Library Services and Technology Act. Libraries use the grant funds to purchase computers, printers, scanners, microfilm readers, photocopiers, and other equipment.

Library	Award	Equipment
Albany Carnegie Public Library	\$3,325	Lucent wireless network
Barton County Library	\$6,449	1 microfilm reader/printer
Boonslick Regional Library	\$ 21,086	network servers
Bowling Green Free Public Library	\$750	1 fax/copy machine
Brentwood Public Library	\$2,039	3 bar code scanners and stands
Cape Girardeau Public Library	\$4,500	2 computers, 2 laser printers
Carnegie Public Library	\$8,736	4 laptop computers

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Specialty items feature statewide library logo

The statewide library logo and slogan, "Missouri Libraries: Your Lifetime Connection," appear on a variety of items from K-READ, a library graphics firm. Items include window decals, a canvas tote bag, a polo shirt, a mousepad, stickers, and a mini-light keychain. Any of these items would be appropriate not only for library staff but also for library gift shops, friends and volunteers, meetings and workshops, and prizes.

To view the items, go to the K-READ website at <http://www.kread.com> and click on Missouri Libraries: Your Lifetime Connection."

Additional specialty items featuring the logo will be available in the fall.



Personal Notes

Ann Roberts has joined the State Library staff as grants coordinator on a temporary basis. She has responsibility for administering all aspects of the federal library grant program in Missouri.

Roberts has worked as a public services librarian-assistant director of the Lincoln Parish Library (LA) where she supervised adult services, young adult and children's services, and circulation. She served as director of the Frontier Historical Society Museum (CO), where she managed an extensive volunteer program, developed exhibits, managed the library and archives, and engaged in fundraising. She also has worked in the circulation and cataloging departments at the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library (LA), the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the University of Pittsburgh.

She received an M.L.S. from the University of Pittsburgh, a graduate degree in music from Louisiana State University, and an undergraduate degree in music from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Susan McBeth has been appointed director of the Nevada Public Library. Before accepting her new appointment, she served as executive director of the National Conference for Community and Justice (formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews) in Kansas City for 15 years. For this organization, she developed education programs and was involved in advocacy work and conflict resolution. She also served as regional director for the same organization in Omaha. Her B.A. in English is from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Carrie Cline is the new director of the McDonald County Library, Pineville. She succeeds Nancy Campbell, who has accepted a position as a library director in Maryland.

Cline was director of the Wright County Library for four years and before that was a school librarian in southwest Missouri schools. She earned a B.S. in library sci-

ence from the School of the Ozarks.

Brenda Bates has been named director of the Texas County Library, Houston. She replaces **Blanche McKinney**. She holds a B.S. in accounting and an M.B.A. from Lincoln University. She has served as a financial officer for several businesses and also operated her own accounting and consulting firm that provided support for small- to medium-sized businesses.

Kansas City Public Library has announced two new employees at the Main/Central Library: **Mary Beveridge** as special collections department manager and **Diana Silvers** as director of marketing and development.

Beveridge was most recently at Cowles Library at Drake University (IA), serving as coordinator of marketing and customer service. She received a B.A. in history from the College of Wooster, an M.S. in library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an M.A. in history from Drake University. She will be working with her staff to compile and maintain local history and other special collections within the library as well as online for library customers.

Silvers was a public relations manager for Sprint and previously worked as communications coordinator for Missouri Western State College. She has a B.A. in English from Missouri Western State College and an M.P.A. (emphasis on non-profit management) from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She will work with the library director, board of trustees, and a committee on the library's upcoming capital campaign.

Three new library faculty have joined Central Missouri State University's James C. Kirkpatrick Library: **Jerry Brown**, **Sandra Jenkins**, and **Linda London**.

Brown, an instructor in library services, received a B.S. in education from CMSU and an M.A. in library science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is working toward an education specialist in information technology. She has served as

an instructor and head of reference for Fort Valley State University (GA) and a reference and systems librarian for the College of Saint Mary (NE).

Jenkins, an instructor in the Department of Library Science and Information Services, previously served as a lecturer and graduate assistant for the department. She holds an M.L.S. and an education specialist from CMSU and is pursuing a Ph.D in information technology from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

London, an instructor in library services, holds an M.A. in information science and learning technologies from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Phyllis A. Schmidt is the new social sciences reference librarian at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Libraries. Formerly she was assistant librarian for serials and interlibrary loan at New Mexico Highlands University. She also has served as reference librarian at Montana State University, cataloging department head, head of reference & online services, and assistant director for public services at Fort Hays State University (KS). She earned a B.A. in German and an M.S. in educational administration at Fort Hays State and an M.L.S. from Emporia State University (KS).

Eveleth Hill has been named director of children's services at Marshall Public Library. She worked in the same position at the library from summer 1995 to summer 1998. Her undergraduate degree is from Missouri Valley College and her graduate degree in elementary education is from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is a certified school librarian.

Christopher Duggan has been appointed manager of communications at St. Louis County Library. He comes to the library from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, where he was a member of its public relations staff. Previously he had worked in community relations at Duchesne High School in St. Charles and as a reporter and editor for the Suburban Journals of St.

Charles County. He received a B.A. in English from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and an M.A. in mass communications from Lindenwood.

Two staff members of Mid-Continent Public Library have received national awards for genealogy services.

Martha Henderson, Mid-Continent's genealogy librarian, received the prestigious Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship during the National Genealogical Society's annual banquet in Portland, Oregon, on May 19.

Named in honor of former Maryland Historical Society librarian P. William Filby, the prize is awarded annually to a genealogy librarian who has made significant contributions to the field. It is co-sponsored by Scholarly Resources, Inc., a publishing company headquartered in Delaware. Scholarly Resources awarded Henderson with a \$1,000 check.

Henderson was cited for her leadership in starting the library's Genealogy Circulating Collection. Begun in 1985, the collection now totals more than 7,000 genealogy and local history books available for check out by local patrons or researchers nationwide through interlibrary loan. This unique collection provides access to genealogy books that were previously not available through the loan system.

Henderson was also cited for her part in the development of Mid-Continent's Genealogy Library from a one-person operation, herself, to a nationally recognized research center with a staff of 30 employees.

Employed by the library for 23 years, Henderson will retire at the end of July.

Margaret Ann Reinert, reference librarian and North Independence Branch librarian at Mid-Continent, is the 2001 recipient of the Genealogical Publishing Co./History Section Award, presented by the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of the American Library Association.

The award, \$1,500 and a citation, donated by The Genealogical Publishing Company,

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Upcoming Events



July 2
National Literacy Day

August 3
Wolfner Advisory Council Meeting
Jefferson City

August 7-10
Library Skills Institute
Columbia

August 16-25
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions General Conference
Boston

September 8
International Literacy Day

September 22-29
Banned Books Week

September 25-26
Missouri Census Data Center Annual Conference
Columbia

September 27
Secretary's Council on Library Development Meeting
Location TBA

Libri grants to Missouri libraries

Four Missouri public libraries have received grants from the Libri Foundation, a program which provides quality children's books to small rural public libraries. Recipients include the Alton Public Library, Douglas County Library, Palmyra Bicentennial Library, and Wellsville Public Library.

Libraries applying for the grants must seek matching funds from individuals or organizations; the foundation then sends the recipients a list of books from which they can choose both fiction and nonfiction titles.

The Libri Foundation is based in Oregon; its founder, Barbara McKillip, grew up in Missouri and graduated from Central Missouri State University.



is given to encourage, recognize, and commend professional achievement in historical reference and research librarianship. Of particular interest to RUSA members is her ongoing compilation of a record of past events of the History Section and its various committees.

Sharon Anderson and **Paula Gresham-Bequette** have joined the Cape Girardeau Public Library as children's librarian and adult services librarian, respectively. Both are former teachers. Gresham-Bequette has also worked at the Riverside Regional Library in Jackson.

Spring library grants round-up *(continued from page 5)*

<i>Library</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Equipment</i>
Carter County Library	\$3,668	2 computers, 2 printers
Cedar County Library	\$1,000	1 computer
Cedar County Library	\$9,022	1 digital microfilm reader/printer
Ferguson Municipal Public Library District	\$1,343	1 computer
Hannibal Free Public Library	\$ 30,997	wireless computer training lab
Hannibal Free Public Library	\$6,600	library security system
Holden Public Library	\$2,999	1 computer, printer
Kansas City Public Library	\$48,406	library security system
Kirkwood Public Library	\$15,935	1 proxy server, 20 computers
Little Dixie Regional Libraries	\$5,509	1 die machine
Little Dixie Regional Libraries	\$2,363	1 TV/VCR system, CD players
McDonald County Library	\$3,320	laser printer, 4 computers
Mercer County Library	\$9,352	1 microfilm reader, fiche
Missouri River Regional Library	\$4,936	1 video rewinder/inspector/cleaner
Neosho/Newton County Library	\$4,685	3 computers

Library	Award	Equipment
North Kansas City Public Library	\$5,860	4 computers
Oregon Public Library	\$3,950	2 computers
Oregon Public Library	\$899	1 overhead projector
Park Hills Public Library	\$8,056	1 microfilm reader/ printer
Poplar Bluffs Public Library	\$13,579	5 computers, 1 color printer
Polk County Library	\$7,597	notebook computer, video projector
Pulaski County Library District	\$5,661	notebook computer, 1 projector
Pulaski County Library District	\$6,041	computer access for disabled
Richmond Heights Memorial Library	\$3,144	4 computers
Riverside Regional Library	\$3,279	2 computers, 1 printer
Riverside Regional Library	\$11,120	1 microfilm digital reader-printer
Riverside Regional Library	\$2,200	1 presentation computer
Riverside Regional Library	\$6,590	2 magnifiers
Riverside Regional Library	\$3,395	7 electronic patron counters
St. Louis County Library	\$128,952	4 computer training labs, equipment
St. Louis County Library District	\$200,000	100 desktop computers
Sedalia Public Library	\$ 3,999	1 multimedia projector
Sedalia Public Library	\$ 6,945	1 RTI/tapechek
Shelbina Carnegie Public Library	\$1,298	2 computers
Springfield-Greene County Library District	\$10,398	1 computer, server, video camera

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Book Sense Books of the Year

The American Booksellers Association (ABA) named the Book Sense Books of the Year at its annual convention held in May. Independent booksellers chose the titles as those they most enjoyed hand-selling. The winners were:

Adult fiction: *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant (Picador USA)

Adult nonfiction: *Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture* by Ross King (Walker & Co.)

Children's literature: *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick)

Children's illustrated: *Olivia* by Ian Falconer (Atheneum)

Book Sense is the ABA's ongoing effort to promote independent booksellers through publications, national and local advertising, online retailing, and gift certificates.

Route 66 Association of Missouri

Often referred to as the "mother road," Route 66 crossed eight states and functioned as the major highway from Chicago to southern California from the late 1920s to the advent of the interstate system in the 1950s. U.S. 66 was officially decertified in 1985 and "replaced" by Interstates 55, 44, 40, 15, and 10.

On July 10, 1990, the Governor of Missouri signed legislation designating Old U.S. Highway 66 as a historic highway in Missouri. Around the same time, the Route 66 Association of Missouri was officially incorporated and has assisted the Missouri Department of Transportation in placing Historic Route 66 markers along the entire length of old 66 in Missouri.

Among its many projects, the association publishes a newsletter and educational brochures, maintains a library, and provides speakers for groups interested in learning about old Route 66.

Visit the association's website at <http://www.missouri66.org>.

Spring grant round-up—(continued from page 9)

Library	Award	Equipment
Sullivan County Public Library	\$ 725	1 copier
Webster County Library	\$ 3,947	2 servers
Total	\$634,655	

Nine libraries were awarded **Bring in an Expert** grants, a new State Library program open to all types of libraries. Through this program, libraries contract with a Missouri professional to work with their administration, staff, trustees, or community on a specific need or activity. The purposes of the program are to establish enduring professional and institutional connections and to provide professional expertise for specific needs of the library. The program is designed for libraries that have no local funding for such an expense. It will be "piloted" for one year to determine interest and overall success.

Library	Project	Award
Adair County Library	planning for service reductions	\$2,366
Brentwood Public Library	space planning	\$5,000
Cedar County Library	marketing consultant	\$1,500
Central Methodist College—Smiley Library	special collection evaluation	\$800
Fairview Elementary School Library	flexible scheduling	\$350
Festus Public Library	planning for services & technology	\$1,650
Lebanon High School Library	Follett software consultant	\$1,480
Nevada Public Library	general planning	\$3,763
Northwest Missouri State University—Owens Library	professional Web design	\$4,762
Total		\$21,671

Six public libraries will receive grants under the **Americans with Disabilities Act Retrofit Project**, funded through the former Library Services & Construction Act, Title II. The grants help public libraries comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act by making their buildings accessible to individuals with disabilities. Awardees include:

- **H.E. Sever Memorial Library (Kahoka):** \$4,000 to improve handicapped parking at entrance, remove and replace existing sidewalks, and provide a new ramp.
- **McDonald County Library:** \$4,293 to remodel the library's circulation desk to make it accessible.
- **Mid-Continent Public Library:** \$14,265 for installation of power openers for nine branches.
- **Mid-Continent Public Library:** \$3,098 for installation of nine visual alarms to the existing nine audible alarms, plus 19 additional audible/visual alarms with wiring at the North Independence Branch Library.

- **Sedalia Public Library:** \$102,300 to provide an accessible entrance, an elevator, and restrooms for this four-level building.
- **University City Public Library:** \$115,000 to replace and make ADA compliant the elevator in this two-story library.

Missouri students win Letters About Literature awards

Lindsay Wallace of Columbia and Keely D. White of Hopkins are the state winners of the 2001 Letters About Literature contest. The contest is sponsored by the Missouri Center for the Book in cooperation with the Weekly Reader Corporation and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Wallace and White received \$100 cash prizes for their entries.

The national essay contest invites students to write a letter to an author—living or dead—explaining how that author's work somehow changed their view of the world or themselves. The contest offers two competition levels: Level 1 for grades 4 to 7 and Level 2 for grades 8 to 12.

Wallace is a 7th grade student at Lange Middle School in Columbia. She wrote a letter to Dr. Martin Luther King about his "I Have a Dream" speech.

White, a senior at North Nodaway R-VI High School, wrote to novelist John Irving about his book *The Cider House Rules*. This was the fourth time White placed in the Missouri contest. She has been a second-place winner twice and also received an honorable mention.

Two second-place winners and six honorable mentions were named in the Missouri contest. They also won cash prizes.

Second-place winners were Jessica Scott, a 7th grade student at LaSalle Middle School in Glencoe for Level 1, and Anna Compton, a sophomore at Harrisonville High School, for Level 2.

Level 1 honorable mentions were Allie Cassady, 5th grade, Putnam County R-I School in Unionville; Gordy Jenkins, 6th grade, Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City; and Hayley Van Amburg, 7th grade, Rockwood Valley Middle School in Wild-



First Lady Lori Hauser Holden with Missouri's 2001 Letters About Literature winners. The First Lady hosted a reception and awards ceremony for the winners, their families and teachers at the Governor's Mansion on May 16. Bottom row (l-r): Jessica Scott, Haley Van Amburg, Gordy Jenkins, Lindsay Wallace, Allie Cassady; top row (l-r): Anna Compton, Shannon MacDonald, Lori Hauser Holden, Jason Kim, J. Andrew Hitchings. Not pictured: Keely White. (Lloyd Grotjan photo)

wood.

Level 2 honorable mentions were J. Andrew Hitchings, a senior at Arcadia Valley High School in Ironton; Jason Kim, a freshman at Parkway North High School in St. Louis; and Shannon MacDonald, a senior at Lee's Summit Senior High School.

Judges for the 2001 Missouri contest were Dr. Shelly J. Croteau, Dr. Thomas F. Dillingham, Steve Kappler, Dr. Carolyn McCall, Dr. Jamieson Spencer, and Sue Thomas. All serve on the Missouri Center for the Book's board of directors.

More than 24,000 students entered the Letters about Literature contest from across the country. Almost 1,000 students entered the Missouri contest.

Everything in
the world exists
to end up in a
book.

Stephane Mallarme

Exploring partnerships for lifelong learning



The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has a primary focus on lifelong learning, partnership, and technology. In FY2003, IMLS anticipates awarding over \$2 million * for partnerships that address the needs of 21st century learners.

As part of its 21st century learner initiative, IMLS will host a conference in Washington, DC from November 7 to 9, 2000, to examine actual experiments in creating community partnerships for lifelong learning and to explore innovative ideas and resources.

The Concept: Communities must take responsibility for fostering a learning culture in the information age. Continuing developments in technology and the increasing mobility and pluralism of populations present and demand opportunities to increase skills, knowledge, and understanding. Both libraries and museums are among the most vital providers of new learning opportunities as well as promoters of community partnerships.

Who should attend: All who have an interest in, or experience with, creating community partnerships for lifelong learning—from libraries, museums, colleges and other educational institutions, to representatives of the broadcast, technology, and research

fields, and the funding and public policy sectors.

Registration is free. To register for the conference or for more information, contact Elizabeth Lyons at the Institute of Museum and Library Services, 202-606-4649 or elyons@imls.gov.

** subject to Congressional appropriation*

Billy Collins named poet laureate

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has announced the appointment of Billy Collins as Poet Laureate. Collins starts his duties in the fall.

In announcing the selection, Billington said, "Billy Collins's poetry is widely accessible. He writes in an original way about all manner of ordinary things and situations with both humor and a surprising contemplative twist." The one-year appointment carries a \$35,000 stipend from private funds and an office in the library. Stanley Kunitz had preceded Collins as Poet Laureate.

Collins is a Guggenheim Fellow who has published six collections of poetry. He is a Distinguished Professor of English at Lehman College of the City University of New York. Random House will publish *Sailing Alone Around the Room*, Collins's book of new and selected poems, in September 2000.

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